

Program E: Voter Registration

Program Authorization: La. Constitution, Article IV, Sec. 12; R.S. 36-661-663; R.S. 18:3; R.S. 18:18; R.S. 18:20; R.S. 18:51-64; R.S. 101-221; R.S. 18:423; R.S. 18:1300.1-1300.7; R.S. 18:1321; R.S. 18:1331-1335; R.S. 18:1392; R.S. 18:1400.2-1400.7; R.S. 18:1451-1453; P.L. 103-31; Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; LAC 31: II. Chapters 3, 5, and 6.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Voter Registration Program is to advance the department's leadership position as the premier voter registration system in the nation; to afford the citizens of Louisiana more opportunities for voter registration.

The goals of the Voter Registration Program are:

1. Administer the laws governing voter registration.
2. Develop programs for the statewide voter registration system to better assist the parish registrars of voters and serve the general public.

The Voter Registration Program is responsible for prescribing rules and instructions to be applied uniformly by the parish registrars of voters; compiling and storing statistical research, political analysis, and voter trends. Parish registrars of voters register and canvass voters to ensure registration in the proper parish, ward, and precinct. The Voter Registration Program includes the following activities: Voter Registration Administration Section and Registrars of Voters Section.

- The Registration Administration Section directs, assists, and prescribes rules, regulations, forms, and instructions to be applied uniformly by each registrar of voters in the state.
- The Registrars of Voters Section registers all persons interested in becoming a registered voter and updates voter registration data. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Department of Elections and Registration is required to pay the state's share of the salaries for the registrars of voters and their employees as well as a prorated portion of the annual canvass cost. The canvass examines the validity of the addresses of record for the registered voters in Louisiana.

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Unless otherwise indicated, all objectives are to be accomplished during or by the end of FY 2001-2002. Performance indicators are made up of two parts: name and value. The indicator name describes what is being measured. The indicator value is the numeric value or level achieved within a given measurement period. For budgeting purposes, performance indicator values are shown for the prior fiscal year, the current fiscal year, and alternative funding scenarios (continuation budget level and Executive Budget recommendation level) for the ensuing fiscal year (the fiscal year of the budget document).

- 1.(KEY) To assist and direct registrars of voters, administer rules and regulations, conform to state and federal law, serve liaison and troubleshooting functions between the registrars of voters and various governmental agencies.

Strategic Link: This operational objective relates to Objective 1 for the Voter Registration Program in the department's strategic plan (revised January 2001): *Through the Voter Registration Program, the Department will assist and direct registrars of voters, administer rules and regulations, conform to state and federal law, serve liaison and troubleshooting functions between the registrars of voters and various governmental agencies. In addition, the Department will coordinate various agency-based registration under the National Voter Registration Act and encourage voter registration methods that make voter registration readily available and convenient, as measured by a percentage of voter registrations from nontraditional sources.*

Louisiana: Vision 2020 Link: This operational objective is related to Goal 1, Objective 1.8: *To improve the efficiency and accountability of governmental agencies.*

Children's Cabinet Link: Not applicable

Other Link(s): Not applicable

Explanatory Note: To accomplish this objective, the Registration Administration Section provides information to registrars of voters concerning changes in the law that affect the registration process, develops rules and regulations to be followed by parish registrars of voters, investigates means of voter registration through new technologies, coordinates various agency-based registrations under the National Voter Registration Act, conducts all initial and follow-up training, and submits all reports and surveys to the Federal Elections Commission.

Explanatory Note: The program structure of the Department of Elections and Registration was reorganized in FY 2000-2001. As part of this reorganization, some performance elements of the "old" Voter Registration Program were moved into the Information Technology Program.

L E V E L	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE	ACT 11 PERFORMANCE STANDARD	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL
		FY 1999-2000	FY 1999-2000	FY 2000-2001	FY 2000-2001	FY 2001-2002	FY 2001-2002
K	Average response time to provide voter registration forms (in days)	Not applicable ¹	Not available ¹	3	3	3	3

¹ This was a new performance indicator for FY 2000-2001. It did not appear under Act 10 of 1999 and does not have a FY 1999-2000 performance standard. Although the department indicates that there is no actual figure available for FY 1999-2000, the department estimates the performance for FY 1999-2000 to be 3 days.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: VOTER REGISTRATION

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1999-00
Total number of registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	2,455,783	2,509,733	2,654,222	2,695,476	2,745,016
Number of active registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	Not available ¹	Not available ¹	2,466,389	2,528,744	2,543,136
Number of inactive registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	Not available ¹	Not available ¹	187,833	166,732	248,288
Percentage change in total number of registered voters	11.2%	2.2%	5.8%	1.6%	1.8%

¹ In FY 1997-98, the software for providing voter registration statistics was modified to capture both active and inactive voter registration data. Prior to that point, data for these indicators are not available. The figures are the highest numbers for each type during the fiscal year. However, the highest levels of each may not occur at the same time during the fiscal year.

2.(KEY) To register voters, update voter rolls, review all incoming voter registration application forms for completeness, and request additional information of all incomplete forms.

Strategic Link: This operational objective correlates to Objective 2 for the Voter Registration Program in the department's strategic plan (revised January 2001): *Through the Voter Registration Program, parish registrars of voters will register voters, update voter rolls, review all incoming voter registration application forms for completeness, and request additional information of all incomplete forms. The registrars of voters will canvass voters to insure that an individual is registered in the parish, ward or precinct in which the voter resides, cancel voter registrations of all voters who are deceased, and suspend the registration of individuals who are interdicted or convicted of a felony.*

Louisiana: Vision 2020 Link: This operational objective is related to Goal 1, Objective 1.8: *To improve the efficiency and accountability of governmental agencies.*

Children's Cabinet Link: Not applicable

Other Link(s): Not applicable

Explanatory Note: To accomplish this objective, the Registrars of Voters Section registers voters, updates voter rolls, reviews all incoming voter registration application forms for completeness, and requests additional information on all incomplete forms. The registrars of voters canvass voters to ensure than an individual is registered in the parish, ward, and precinct in which the voter resides, cancel voter registrations of all voters who are deceased, and suspend the registrations of individuals who are interdicted or convicted of a felony.

Explanatory Note: The program structure of the Department of Elections and Registration was reorganized in FY 2000-2001. As part of this reorganization, some performance elements of the "old" Voter Registration Program were moved into the Information Technology Program.

Explanatory Note: In accordance with statutory requirements, the Department of Elections and Registration is required to pay the state's share of the salaries for registrars of voters and their employees, as well as a pro-rated portion of the annual cost of the canvass.

L E V E L		PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE	ACT 11 PERFORMANCE STANDARD	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL
		FY 1999-2000	FY 1999-2000	FY 2000-2001	FY 2000-2001	FY 2001-2002	FY 2001-2002
	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME						
K	Total number of registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	2,916,240	2,745,016	3,095,800 ¹	3,095,800 ¹	2,850,000	2,850,000

¹ This performance standard was based on projections of 2,915,800 active registered voters and 180,000 inactive registered voters.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: NEW VOTER REGISTRATIONS, BY TYPE

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1999-00
Total number of new voter registrations	324,150	211,499	147,039	157,315	156,557
Number of new voter registrations from traditional sources	83,793	42,530	19,780	22,648	25,705
No. of new voter registrations from state LRI Form	83,151	41,888	19,663	22,496	25,412
No. of new voter registrations from federal postcard	642	1,342	117	152	293
Number of new voter registrations from nontraditional sources	240,357	168,969	127,259	134,667	130,852
No. of new voter registrations from public assistance	28,546	12,102	10,111	7,978	6,813
No. of new voter registrations from motor vehicle office	104,333	84,505	87,511	86,860	80,421
No. of new voter registrations from mail form	88,522	60,351	21,095	30,146	34,342
No. of new voter registrations from optional registration site	16,209	9,955	6,890	8,304	8,308
No. of new voter registrations from social services	2,329	1,312	1,501	1,227	840
No. of new voter registrations from military form	418	744	151	152	128
Percentage of new voter registration applications received from traditional sources	25.9%	20.1%	13.5%	14.4%	16.4%
Percentage of new voter registration from state LRI Form	25.7%	19.5%	13.4%	14.3%	16.2%
Percentage of new voter registration from federal post card	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Percentage of new voter registration applications received from nontraditional sources	74.1%	79.9%	86.5%	85.6%	83.6%
Percentage of new voter registration from public assistance	8.8%	5.7%	6.9%	5.0%	4.4%
Percentage of new voter registration from motor vehicle office	32.2%	40.0%	59.5%	55.2%	51.4%
Percentage of new voter registration from mail form	27.3%	28.5%	14.3%	19.2%	21.9%
Percentage of new voter registration from optional registration site	5.0%	4.7%	4.7%	5.3%	5.3%
Percentage of new voter registration from social services	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.5%
Percentage of new voter registration from military form	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 1999 - 2000	ACT 11 2000 - 2001	EXISTING 2000 - 2001	CONTINUATION 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$6,832,744	\$8,170,237	\$5,141,777	\$5,543,622	\$5,418,722	\$276,945
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	383,751	340,000	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	<u><u>\$7,216,495</u></u>	<u><u>\$8,510,237</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,141,777</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,543,622</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,418,722</u></u>	<u><u>\$276,945</u></u>
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$750,887	\$730,000	\$4,446,334	\$4,450,695	\$201,541	(\$4,244,793)
Other Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Related Benefits	112,617	115,430	555,559	556,364	23,994	(531,565)
Total Operating Expenses	1,707,817	2,162,268	46,799	49,154	51,194	4,395
Professional Services	20,000	130,000	0	0	0	0
Total Other Charges	4,612,834	5,238,379	93,085	487,409	5,141,993	5,048,908
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	12,340	134,160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	<u><u>\$7,216,495</u></u>	<u><u>\$8,510,237</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,141,777</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,543,622</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,418,722</u></u>	<u><u>\$276,945</u></u>
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS: Classified	13	13	3	3	3	0
Unclassified	1	1	1	1	1	0
TOTAL	<u><u>14</u></u>	<u><u>14</u></u>	<u><u>4</u></u>	<u><u>4</u></u>	<u><u>4</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded with State General Fund.

ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATION

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$8,170,237	\$8,510,237	14	ACT 11 FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001
			BA-7 TRANSACTIONS:
(\$3,028,460)	(\$3,368,460)	(10)	Departmental reorganization approved by BA-7
\$5,141,777	\$5,141,777	4	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET – December 15, 2000
\$14,000	\$14,000	0	Annualization of FY 2000-2001 Classified State Employees Merit Increase
\$74,620	\$74,620	0	Annualization of FY 2000-2001 Unclassified State Employees Merit Increase
\$20,991	\$20,991	0	Classified State Employees Merit Increases for FY 2001-2002
\$289,879	\$289,879	0	Unclassified State Employees Merit Increases for FY 2001-2002
\$19,500	\$19,500	0	Reorganization of the Department
(\$146,440)	(\$146,440)	0	Adjustments of operational expenses to anticipated needs
\$4,395	\$4,395	0	Additional funding for office space
\$5,418,722	\$5,418,722	4	TOTAL RECOMMENDED

The total means of financing for this program is recommended at 105.3% of the existing operating budget. It represents 97.2% of the total request (\$5,575,696) for this program. At the recommended level of funding, approximately the same level of services should be provided

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This program does not have funding for Professional Services for Fiscal Year 2001-2002

OTHER CHARGES

\$5,141,993 Salaries, benefits, miscellaneous election expenses, for the state's share of Parish Registrar of Voters Offices.

\$5,141,993 SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

\$5,141,993 TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS

This program does not have funding for Acquisitions and Major Repairs for Fiscal Year 2001 -2002